

2010 Canastota Little League

Local, District, and Little League International Rule changes

For Major Baseball

Local Rule/District Rule

No inning shall start after 8:00 p.m. before June 1. After June 1, play may continue only with the permission of the Umpire and with mutual agreement by both team managers. Plan ahead with the other manager as to what will be the last inning. All play will be suspended at 8:30 p.m. regardless of score. If the game is suspended, the game will be rescheduled at a later date and will be continued at the same spot as it was suspended, all pitch counts will be continued.

Pitch count. At the end of each full inning, both teams should compare and confirm pitch counts.

Inappropriate behavior Managers are to encourage parental involvement in all league activities. Managers are, however, also responsible not only for their players' behavior on the playing or practice field, they are also responsible for the behavior of the players' parents, guardians, siblings, or other fans. Taunting, jeering, baiting the umpires, booing, heckling or any other inappropriate behavior from fans in attendance, for any reason whatsoever, may result in immediate forfeit of the game being played. Umpires and league officials have the right to deem a game forfeited in the event such misbehavior occurs.

Q – What are the minimum number of innings and at-bats required for each player to play?

A – The book rule is 2 innings in the field and 1 at bat. However, District 9's rule is for 3 innings in the field and 1 at bat. This brings the question of how do you get a sub in, since the book says a player removed cannot re-enter the game until the sub has got his or her minimum innings in. In the case of subs, we revert to the book rule, where the removed player can return to the game once the sub has played 2 innings in the field. This will allow you to get players subbed in more liberally and there should be less players stuck on the bench for 3 consecutive innings, if the manager so chooses.

Please also remember, that Canastota LL has adopted a "One Third of the Season" "Game Starting Rule. Each player must start in at least 4 regular season games.

The following rules are in effect immediately and append your new 2010 Rule Book.

Rules and Regulations Changes for 2010 as Enacted at the 25th Little League International Congress

Text in *Italics* indicates a change in the rule or regulation. The text in each "Summary and Implementation," a short explanation of the new rule or regulation, will not appear in the Rule Books.

Regulation VI – PITCHERS in the Baseball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

- (a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. *Exception: Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.*
(one pitch caught, constitutes one inning)

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this prohibits a player – who has played the position of catcher in any part of four innings in a game – from being used as a pitcher at any time on that calendar day. This applies to all baseball divisions, and will apply to the International Tournament as well.

Other than the above, all rules per the 2010 Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules are in effect.

Also look on the first page of the rule book for Significant Changes for 2010

2010 Canastota Little League

Local, District, and Little League International Rule changes

For Major Softball

Local Rule/District Rule

The League has adopted the Continuous Batting option for this Season.

No inning shall start after 8:00 p.m. before June 1. After June 1, play may continue only with the permission of the Umpire and with mutual agreement by both team managers. Plan ahead with the other manager as to what will be the last inning. All play will be suspended at 8:30 p.m. regardless of score. If the game is suspended, the game will be rescheduled at a later date and will be continued at the same spot as it was suspended, all pitch counts will be continued.

Inappropriate behavior Managers are to encourage parental involvement in all league activities. Managers are, however, also responsible not only for their players' behavior on the playing or practice field, they are also responsible for the behavior of the players' parents, guardians, siblings, or other fans. Taunting, jeering, baiting the umpires, booing, heckling or any other inappropriate behavior from fans in attendance, for any reason whatsoever, may result in immediate forfeit of the game being played. Umpires and league officials have the right to deem a game forfeited in the event such misbehavior occurs.

Q – What are the minimum number of innings and at-bats required for each player to play?

A – The book rule is 2 innings in the field and 1 at bat. However, District 9's rule is for 3 innings in the field and 1 at bat. This brings the question of how do you get a sub in, since the book says a player removed cannot re-enter the game until the sub has got his or her minimum innings in. In the case of subs, we revert to the book rule, where the removed player can return to the game once the sub has played 2 innings in the field. This will allow you to get players subbed in more liberally and there should be less players stuck on the bench for 3 consecutive innings, if the manager so chooses.

Please also remember, that Canastota LL has adopted a "One Third of the Season" "Game Starting Rule. Each player must start in at least 4 regular season games.

The following rules are in effect immediately and append your new 2010 Rule Book.

Rules and Regulations Changes for 2010 as Enacted at the 25th Little League International Congress

The following changes to the Rules and Regulations went into effect on March 15, 2010. These items were voted upon by the delegates (District Administrators or their appointees) at the 25th Little League International Congress, and approved by the Little League International Board of Directors for immediate implementation. Text in *Italics* indicates a change in the rule or regulation. The text in each "Summary and Implementation," a short explanation of the new rule or regulation, will not appear in the Rule Books.

Rule 1.07 in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

1.07 – The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground as shown in Diagrams 1 and 2, so that the distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (the rear point of home plate) shall be – (1) Minor League: 35 feet; (2) Little League (Majors) and Junior League: 40 feet; (3) *Senior and Big League: 43 feet.*

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this increases the pitching distance in Senior League Softball and Big League Softball from 40 feet to 43 feet. (Note: This means all leagues must make this change immediately. Leagues where the change is not possible for the 2010 regular season must document the reasons the change is not possible and submit them as a Charter Committee Waiver Request for consideration. The 43-foot distance is mandatory during the International Tournament for all fields on which Senior League Softball and Big League Softball division Tournament games are scheduled, from district play through the World Series.)

Rule 2.00 in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

BUNT is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball.* (Tee Ball: Bunts are not permitted. Batters are not permitted to take a half-swing. If the umpire feels the batter is taking a half-swing, the batter may be called back to swing again.)

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for all softball divisions, this mandates that the umpire call a strike when the batter holds the bat in the strike zone when the pitch is delivered, even if the batter does not “offer” at the pitch. This also will apply during the International Tournament.

Rule 6.09 (b) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

The batter becomes a runner when –

(b) *Major/Junior/Senior/Big League:* the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. NOTE: A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, players may advance on a dropped third strike. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring players not to advance. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 7.08 (a) (5) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

Any runner is out when –

(a) (5) *Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions:* the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. (NOTE: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.)

(b) *Minor League/Tee Ball:* the runner fails to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, runners may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring runners to remain on the base until the ball reaches the batter. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 8.03 (c) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

(c) *If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.*

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Junior, Senior and Big League Softball Divisions, this removes the ability to “waive” a batter to first base for an intentional walk. All softball divisions now fall under this same rule. This also will apply during the International Tournament.

Other than the above, all rules per the 2010 Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules are in effect. Also look on the first page of the rule book for Significant Changes for 2010

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For Minor Baseball

Local Rule/District Rule

No inning shall start after 8:00 p.m. before June 1. After June 1, play may continue only with the permission of the Umpire and with mutual agreement by both team managers. Plan ahead with the other manager as to what will be the last inning. All play will be suspended at 8:30 p.m. regardless of score. If the game is suspended, the game will be rescheduled at a later date and will be continued at the same spot as it was suspended, all pitch counts will be continued.

All personnel in the dugout. Manager/Coaches/Players/Pitch Counters must remain in the dugout during play. All teams are limited to 4 adults in the dugout or coaching the bases; A Manager, 2 Coaches, and one pitch Counter/Scorekeeper.

Pitch count. At the end of each full inning, both teams should compare and confirm pitch counts.

Batting. All players shall bat in continuous order. If a player leaves during the game, his or her team will not be charged an out for their spot in the lineup. If a player arrives during the game, they shall be inserted into the bottom of the lineup; however, they will not be allowed to enter the game once the third inning has begun. Managers should work together when these situations occur.

Mercy Rule and Weekend Games. A game shall cease and the leading team shall be awarded victory in the event the leading team is ahead by 10 or more runs after four innings of play. In the event a home team is leading by 10 or more runs after three and one half innings are completed, the home team shall not bat and the visiting team shall not take the field.

An inning may not begin and play shall not continue in Saturday and Sunday Regular Season games that have proceeded for two hours following the start of said games. This shall be known as "Weekend Curfew."

Keep games moving. make sure there are no more than 8 warm-up pitches for new pitchers, and 5 warm-up pitches for returning pitchers between innings. Have catcher geared up and ready to play

Inappropriate behavior. Managers are to encourage parental involvement in all league activities. Managers are, however, also responsible not only for their players' behavior on the playing or practice field, they are also responsible for the behavior of the players' parents, guardians, siblings, or other fans. Taunting, jeering, baiting the umpires, booing, heckling or any other inappropriate behavior from fans in attendance, for any reason whatsoever, may result in immediate forfeit of the game being played. Umpires and league officials have the right to deem a game forfeited in the event such misbehavior occurs.

Defensive Players. Managers will have the option to place 10 defensive players on the field, but will be limited to only placing 6 in the infield.

5-Run Rule. Is in effect per the rule book, and Canastota Little League has chosen the option to suspend the 5-run limit in the last inning.

Q – What are the minimum number of innings and at-bats required for each player to play?

A – The book rule is 2 innings in the field and 1 at bat. However, District 9's rule is for 3 innings in the field and 1 at bat. This brings the question of how do you get a sub in, since the book says a player removed cannot re-enter the game until the sub has got his or her minimum innings in. In the case of subs, we revert to the book rule, where the removed player can return to the game once the sub has played 2 innings in the field. This will allow you to get players subbed in more liberally and there should be less players stuck on the bench for 3 consecutive innings, if the manager so chooses.

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Pitching; The Manager has the option, to have an **adult** pitch to his/her team, during the even numbered innings. This is an option only and not mandatory. A player must pitch in the odd numbered innings.

Defensive Players. Managers will have the option to place 10 defensive players on the field, but will be limited to only placing 6 in the infield.

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